

“[Honor] exists in the human spirit and it lives in the relations between human beings.”

- The Honor Code

As we and our nation once again come to terms with the astounding amount of racism and racists in our country, your **Honor Council** again turns to the Honor Code to guide us. We are told that Honor lives “in the relations between human beings,” with the three “do nots” of the code being about the three main ways that we can hurt our relationship with our fellow students. However, to live an honorable life, which is the overall goal of the Code, there are more do or do nots than we could ever list in any document.

The Honor Council believes that racism is antithetical to any conception of honor or to any idea of the social contract. We mourn the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and hope that their murderers will be found guilty in our legal system. We feel the hurt of black communities across this world, and we hope that as we leave this transitory space in however many years’ time, that we will be able to use our privileges to help them.

The Honor Code calls on us, as students and alumni of this University, to recognize and act on our “peculiar responsibility for the punctilious observance of those standards of conduct which govern an honorable person in every walk of life,” and Sewanee honorary degree recipient Desmond Tutu advises us that “if you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” We urge you, as the honorable Sewanee student you are, to stop any form of neutrality you may have and to get involved in what is going on in some way, shape, or form, and to remember that the most important part of a protest is what happens afterward.

The Honor Council, 2019-2020  
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We, the **Black Student Union** (BSU) at the University of the South, render our sincere and relentless support to the Black Lives Matter movement and other grass-roots social movement organizations, in light of the traumatic, distressing, and devastating acts of police brutality, racial violence and injustice that **countless** African Americans have been victims of. We take this time to acknowledge and extend our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd and the plethora of African Americans who died at the hands of police or civilians who blatantly and intentionally overstepped their boundaries.

As an organization representing a minority at a predominantly white institution, we are cognizant of our responsibility to ensure that our Black students are promoted and recognized for their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments. Nonetheless, we assure our fellow Black students that we will continue to cultivate a safe space and platform for fellowship, with the hope and confidence that we can make an impact for the betterment of our community and nation.

We stand firm by our efforts to increase awareness and create change. BSU pledges to stand in solidarity with our Black students, the entire African American community, and our allies to condemn white supremacy, racial oppression, and violence. We will promote donation and petition platforms in our bio and in upcoming posts on our Instagram page.

The **Organization for Cross Cultural Understanding** (OCCU) stands with our Black students, faculty, staff and community members, today and every day, in the fight for racial justice and equality. We stand with the Black Lives Matter movement, which calls for the dismantling of white supremacy in all its forms. We stand with families that are mourning the lives of innocent loved ones, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and many innocent Black lives that were lost due to white violence and police brutality. We acknowledge that those lives were lost unjustly, which highlights that our organization, and all of us as a society, still have much more work to do in terms of fighting against prejudice and stereotypes.

We believe that a crime against one is a crime against all and should not go unpunished. Harassing, hurting, and killing people should never be tolerated. No one should have to feel unsafe and live in fear every day in your own land, in your own country. We believe that all of us, no matter what color our skin is, should stand and use our voice in the fight for Black lives. This fight is not only for our Black brothers, but it is for all of us, to head toward a fair and equal society.

It is a privilege to be able to educate ourselves about racism instead of experiencing it. We urge you to use that privilege and join us in supporting the Black Lives Matter movement in any way possible. Sharing stories and images on your platform is necessary in spreading the awareness, but it is not enough. Join us in taking action to help: donate if you are financially able, sign petitions, text/call and email to call out police violence and demand justice for the lost lives. We have to make sure that the ones who died did not do so in vain. Most importantly, educate yourself more and more—it is never enough.

We, as an organization, will work on further educating ourselves and continue with our mission of bridging the gap between different cultures by creating meaningful dialogues and events. We will continue to bring cross-cultural awareness to our campus. We hope that this will ultimately

lead to a series of much needed changes and reformations to the deep-rooted system. We hope that these changes will lead to a better, safer and equal place for all members of the Black community, as well as other communities who experience racial injustice. Our hearts, thoughts, and prayers are with those who are hurt and feel pain in this fight. Black Lives Matter.